REMARKS

Claims 44-75 are pending in the present application. In accordance with a telephone interview with Examiners Nashed and Chowdhury, claim 44 to expressly provide that the amino acid sequence of the claimed variants is not identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks in this response and the Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111 filed on August 5, 2008 is requested.

The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 17, 2008 /Elias Lambiris, Reg. # 33728/

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